

Message Text

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TAGS: ETRD, OECD

SUBJECT: FUTURE OF THE TRADE PLEDGE: MEETING OF THE
TRADE COMMITTEE WORKING PARTY, FEBRUARY 22

REF : (A) OECD PARIS 4537; (B) OECD DOCUMENT TC/WP(77)5

1. MISSION SHOULD CONTINUE TO USE PAPER WE CIRCULATED
TO TRADE COMMITTEE MEMBERS LAST NOVEMBER FOR GENERAL
GUIDANCE ON U.S. THINKING. U.S. DELEGATE MAY CONGRATULATE
SECRETARIAT ON AN EXCELLENT EXAMINATION OF THE ALTERNATIVES
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AND DRAW ON PARAGRAPHS 2 THROUGH 4 BELOW IN MAKING
SPECIFIC COMMENTS.

2. SUBSTANCE: ON SECTORAL PROBLEMS, WE AGREE THAT ONE
OBJECTIVE OF CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE OF THE TRADE
PLEDGE SHOULD BE TO ENCOURAGE MEMBER COUNTRIES TO
REFRAIN FROM PURSUING BILATERAL SOLUTIONS TO ESSENTIALLY

MULTILATERAL PROBLEMS AND TO TAKE FULLY INTO ACCOUNT THE INTERESTS OF THIRD COUNTRIES. WE ALSO AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO PLACE RENEWED COMMITMENTS ON TRADE IN THE BROADER ECONOMIC CONTEXT. CLOSER COORDINATION BETWEEN BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR TRADE QUESTIONS AND THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR GENERAL ECONOMIC QUESTIONS IS ALSO DESIRABLE. WE HAVE RESERVATIONS, HOWEVER, ABOUT FORMALIZING SUCH COOPERATION BEYOND A BETTER EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN THE RESPONSIBLE OECD BODIES.

3. PROCEDURES: WE AGREE THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF STRENGTHENING PROCEDURES, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR A BROADER INTERPRETATION OF MEASURES TO BE NOTIFIED (TO INCLUDE EXPORT AIDS, ETC.) AND IMPROVEMENT IN THE CONTENT OF SUCH NOTIFICATION, SHOULD BE EXPLORE.

4. FORM: WE CONTINUE TO SEE RENEWAL OF THE PLEDGE AS IT STANDS AS A VIABLE OPTION ALTHOUGH WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT PROBLEMS OF CREDIBILITY AND CONTINUED APPLICABILITY OF THE PLEDGE LANGUAGE TO THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION. REPLACEMENT OF THE PLEDGE BY A GENERAL DECLARATION NEED NOT BE INTERPRETED AS A WEAKENING OF OUR COMMITMENT AND, IN FACT, IT COULD BE SEEN AS A STRENGTHENING OF THAT COMMITMENT, PARTICULARLY IF IT TAKES PLACE IN THE BROADER ECONOMIC CONTEXT AND IS ACCOMPANIED BY IMPROVED PROCEDURES. WE DO NOT SEE A CONFLICT BETWEEN STRENGTHENING POLITICAL COMMITMENT OF OECD MEMBERS TO CLOSER COOPERATION IN THE TRADE FIELD AND DISCUSSION OF IMPROVEMENTS IN THE TRADING FRAMEWORK NOW UNDERWAY IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

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